

FIRE SAFETY IN THE NEWS

Preventing Bedroom Fires

When a member of your community is killed in a home fire, it is important to let others know how they can prevent a similar tragedy. As you continue to report on the fire, the U.S. Fire Administration encourages you to remind your audience that many fire deaths and injuries are preventable.

More than 4,000 Americans die each year in fires and approximately 20,000 are injured. Many of them might be alive today if only they had the information they needed to avoid a disaster.

The following life-saving tips could make a big difference to your audience. By incorporating them in your story now, while the moment is still fresh, you could help save a life.

Prevent Bedroom Fires Life-Saving Tips

- ☑ Install a smoke alarm on every level of your home. Test smoke alarm batteries every month and change them at least once a year. Consider installing a 10-year lithium battery-powered smoke alarm, which is sealed so it cannot be tampered with or opened.
- ☑ Never smoke in bed.
- ☑ Replace mattresses made prior to the 1973 Federal Mattress Flammability Standard.
- ☑ Keep lighters, matches, and other ignitables in a secured drawer or cabinet out of reach of children. Children are one of the highest risk groups for death in residential fires.
- ☑ Keep lit candles away from bedding, curtains, papers, and anything else that can ignite easily.
- ☑ Do not run electrical cords under your bed or trap them against a wall where heat can build up. Avoid overloading extension cords.
- ☑ Take extra care when using portable heaters. Keep bedding, clothes, curtains and other flammable items at least 3 feet away from space heaters.
- ☑ Use only UL-approved electric blankets and warmers. Check to make sure the cords are not frayed.
- ☑ Make sure everyone in your family knows at least two escape routes from their bedrooms and practice these often.
- ☑ In case of a fire, stay low to the ground beneath the smoke, and have an escape plan already worked out. Get out. Stay out.

Did you know?

- ▶ Eighty-two percent of all fire deaths occur in the home.
- ▶ The bedroom is the most common room in the house where electrical fires start.
- ▶ Deaths due to bedroom fires are particularly preventable.
- ▶ Having a working smoke alarm reduces one's chance of dying in a fire by nearly half.

Following these simple fire safety tips can increase survival rates dramatically. Please share them with your audience because knowledge is the best fire protection.

For more information on the U.S. Fire Administration Public Education Campaigns or to speak with a USFA spokesperson please call 202-842-3600. Also visit www.usfa.fema.gov or www.firesafety.gov for additional information on fire safety.



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